



NAVY EXTENDS PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE EA-18G GROWLER AIRFIELD OPERATIONS AT NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND

THE U.S. NAVY HAS EXTENDED THE SCOPING PERIOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) FOR EA-18G GROWLER AIRFIELD OPERATIONS AT NAS WHIDBEY ISLAND'S AULT FIELD AND OUTLYING LANDING FIELD (OLF) COUPEVILLE, including the proposed introduction of two additional expeditionary Electronic Attack (VAQ) squadrons and the addition of aircraft to the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS).

In response to public and elected official requests, and in order to ensure all surrounding communities have ample opportunity to provide input, **the Navy has extended the scoping period until Friday, January 31**. The scoping period began September 5, and the original deadline for scoping comments was January 3.

The lengthy public scoping period was due to the fact that the scoping meetings were scheduled for December 2013. These dates were chosen to avoid possible cancellation of the meetings during any government shutdown and to avoid conflicting with P-8A Draft Supplemental EIS public meetings and comment period. These meetings were also ongoing in the vicinity of NAS Whidbey Island during the same timeframe.

Public input is very important in order for the Navy to fully understand community concerns and relevant issues.

Members of the public may submit comments via mail to:

EA-18G EIS Project Manager

Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic

Attn: Code EV21/SS

6506 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23508

Comments may also be submitted to the project website: <http://www.whidbeyeis.com>.

All comments must be postmarked or received online no later than January 31, 2014.